



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 15, 1999

H.R. 825

United States-Macau Policy Act of 1999

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations
on March 4, 1999*

H.R. 825 would establish U.S. policy regarding Macau, a Portuguese dependent territory that will revert to the People's Republic of China in 2000. Under this bill, all U.S. laws and international treaties applying to Macau would remain in force after 2000 unless the President determines otherwise. H.R. 825 would establish a new educational and cultural exchange program in 2000 and authorize up to five scholarships. Based on information from the United States Information Agency, CBO estimates that the cost of the program would be roughly \$250,000 in fiscal year 2000. The bill would also require the Department of State to report on conditions in Macau within 90 days of enactment and in each of the years 2000, 2001, and 2002; CBO estimates the resulting costs would be minimal. Overall, CBO estimates that the bill would cost less than \$500,000 a year.

Because H.R. 825 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that are necessary for the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations. That exclusion might apply to Title II of this bill, which addresses the application of existing treaties and other international agreements. In any case, the bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates.

The estimate was prepared by Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.